

Masakazu Muranaka, S.N. 10/514,415  
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JUN 13 2007

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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 20, 2007.

Claims 1-46 were pending, with 11-22 having been withdrawn by the Patent Office from examination. By this Amendment, claim 3 and withdrawn claims 11-22 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1, 23-25, 29, 30, 44 and 45 have been amended to include the features formerly recited in now-canceled claim 3, and claim 26 has been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 23-46 are now pending, with claims 1, 23-25, 29, 30, 44 and 45 being in independent form.

Claims 1, 3 and 26 were objected to as having informalities.

In response, the claims have been carefully reviewed and amended with particular attention to the points raised in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10, 23-26, 28-30, 44 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,721,576 to Barinaga. Claims 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,267,474 to Mochizuki. Claims 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,705,714 to Ptranek. Claims 4, 9, 27 and 31-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Barinaga in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,896,151 to Miyazawa et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,137,689 to Sasaki et al. Claim 46 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Barinaga in view of Mochizuki. Claims 5 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Barinaga in view of Kasai (JP 401180351A).

The Office Action indicated that claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a

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rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claim 3 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and each of independent claims 1, 23-25, 29, 30, 44 and 45 have been amended to include the features formerly recited in now-canceled claim 3.

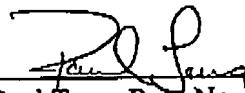
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 23, 24, 25, 229, 30, 44 and 45, and the claims depending therefrom, are now allowable.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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